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Claiborne Pell

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CP floor statement
12/15/87

STATEMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL (D,RI) ON THE COMMITTEE
AMENDMENT TO S.J. RES 26

Mr. President, I would like to offer a package of amendments which have been agreed to by the Committee. In addition to some technical changes to the provisions on the White House Conference on Libraries, several substantive amendments are included as well.

First, the Committee amendment adds \$3 million to the Constitutional Bicentennial Education Program to provide additional training for elementary and secondary teachers in the areas of history, geography, and subjects related to our Constitution. Education is the primary tool for transmitting the ideals of our society to the next generation. If our nation's teachers do not have a basic understanding in these three critical areas, neither will our children.

Second, the Committee package contains four important changes to the Income Contingent Loan Demonstration Program to enable us to get a better picture regarding whether or not such a program is viable. Specifically, the amendment: a) permits 10 additional institutions to participate in the program and allows these to include a consortia of institutions within a state; b) permits institutions of higher education to pay students' in-school interest; c) allows for program participation by professional and graduate students; and (4) decreases the interest rate from T-Bill plus 3% to T-Bill plus one-half of one percent.

Third, the Committee amendment would require guaranty agencies to share information with colleges concerning former students in default on their Guaranteed Student Loans. We have

found that schools often cannot obtain the information they need to help us crack down on defaulters, and this amendment will facilitate the sharing of such data.

Fourth, the amendment corrects a technical error in the eligibility section of the Guaranteed Student Loan Program which prevents students who have returned to school to obtain state teacher certification from obtaining a student loan.

Finally, we have a series of special projects that the Committee members have agreed upon. These include:

\$7.5 million for the Washington Library Consortium. This would authorize the construction and equipping of a facility in Prince George's County, Maryland, that would link by computer eight universities, including American University, Georgetown, George Washington, Catholic, George Mason, Gallaudet, Marymount and the University of the District of Columbia. The facility would also provide central storage for rare books owned by these institutions.

\$4.5 million for the construction of a Health and Human Resources Center at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina.

\$1.0 million for the Vermont Higher Education Council to establish a series of faculty development programs at the 32 institutions of higher education in Vermont.

\$2.2 million for the construction of a Law Library at the University of Mississippi.

These are all worthy projects, and they deserve the strong support of the full Senate.

Mr. President, this amendment represents consensus by the members of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, and I offer it on behalf of myself and Senator Stafford.